

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the outstanding Office Action, Paper No. 20050201, dated February 8, 2005, which required an election among three species of the invention identified by the Examiner. Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species III as indicated by the Examiner. However, Applicants believe that in addition to Fig. 7 as indicated by the Examiner, Figs. 1 through 4 also disclose the elected species. Fig. 7 and Figs. 1 through 4 each disclose multi-purpose holders for supporting an article in a vehicle that include a support member for supporting an article, the support member comprised of at least one arm member that is pivotably mounted.

Claim 18 has been withdrawn. Applicants believe that Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 read on the elected specie. Applicants have amended claim 15 which reads on the elected specie and also reads on species I. Applicants have amended claim 16 which reads on the elected species and also reads on species II and III. Applicants believe Claims 1-12, 14, 17, 19, and 20 to be generic. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all the species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without series burden.

MPEP § 803 states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without series burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). The Examiner would suffer no undue hardship by searching both species of the invention. In the absence of undue hardship, withdrawal of the restriction is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, the election is made with traverse.